



## NEWS RELEASE

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MEDIACONTACT:  
Melissa Miller  
Spencer County Visitors Bureau  
888-444-9252, [tourinfo@psci.net](mailto:tourinfo@psci.net)

### **Bicentennial Plaza is State's Tribute to Lincoln** *Opens June 12 inside Lincoln State Park*

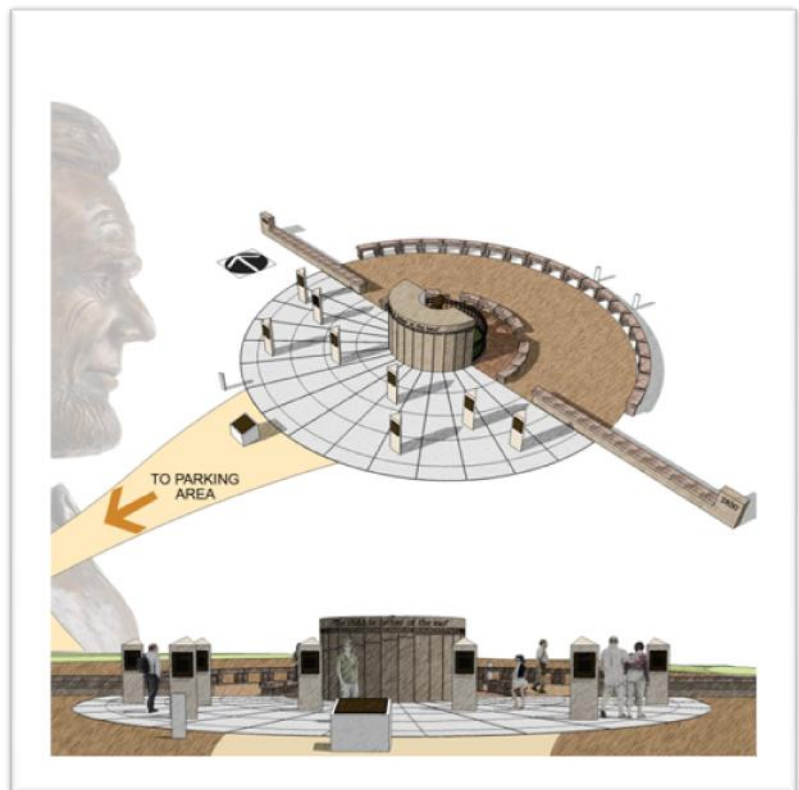
LINCOLN CITY, IND - A new Washington D.C. style monument in honor of Abraham Lincoln's Hoosier youth will be dedicated this summer inside Lincoln State Park.

The completed monument will be unveiled at 10 a.m. CDT on Friday, June 12, the same day that Lincoln Amphitheatre will premiere its new theatrical experience LINCOLN.

"The plaza offers an interactive learning opportunity that elevates the Lincoln experience offered here," said Melissa Miller, executive director of the Spencer County Visitors Bureau and secretary of the Indiana Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. "It will do doubt be a popular destination for visitors from across the country who want to learn more about the life of Abraham Lincoln."

Fort Wayne, Ind., sculptor Will Clarke and George Morrison of the Fort Wayne architectural firm of Morrison Kattman Menze created the plaza design. The IALBC chose Clark and Morrison from among artists across the state who submitted proposals to create a piece of public art, or an arts experience, reflective of 1816 to 1830, the years Lincoln lived in Indiana. The \$300,000 art project is a result of a cooperative effort between the DNR, the Indiana Arts Commission (IAC), the Indiana Historical Bureau and the IALBC.

Known as the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Plaza, the project consists of a large, bisected circular plaza. Visitors will first enter an area punctuated with limestone pedestals and interpretive signs signifying key milestones in Lincoln's formative Indiana years between ages seven and 21.



A central half-circle reminds visitors of young Abraham's growth from a boy to a man. Visitors can move freely between the pedestals. The second semicircle provides a more intimate space for reflecting upon the man who led this nation. It will contain a twice-life-size bronze bust of Lincoln, accompanied by some of his quotes.

The site is located near the entrance to Lincoln State Park on a knoll known as Oak Grove and surrounded by wooded areas.

The 1,847-acre Lincoln State Park in Spencer County was created in 1932 as a memorial to Nancy Hanks Lincoln. The park also includes the historic home of Col. William Jones (Lincoln's merchant employer), hiking trails and two scenic lakes. Visitors also can explore Sarah Lincoln Woods Nature Preserve, named after Abraham's sister, who is buried in Little Pigeon Cemetery, located inside the park.

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